

First Annual Membership Meeting  
United Community Corporation  
May 27, 1965

The first annual membership meeting of the United Community Corporation was held at West Kinney Junior High School, 201 West Kinney Street, Newark, Dean C. Willard Heckel, President, Presiding.

Following the invocation, Dean Heckel, in his report to the membership, noted that the Corporation was an outgrowth of an earlier program called the South Side Project which planned to utilize all community resources dealing with the problems of high school dropouts and the high rate of Negro unemployment in the City. Because of lack of funds the project did not get underway, Dean Heckel said, however when it became apparent that the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 would be passed, the Mayor called a meeting of various leaders in the community and organized the United Community Corporation. The purpose of the Corporation is to help those living in poverty to have an opportunity to help themselves. The power of the Corporation, he said, rests in the membership which is open to anyone who lives in, works in or performs a service to the City of Newark.

Mayor Addonizio, Honorary President of the Corporation, was invited by President Heckel to address the meeting. The Mayor reviewed the problems facing the City, and the role he envisioned for the Corporation in dealing with these problems. Attached hereto is the prepared statement of the Mayor read at the meeting.

Rev. Kinmoth W. Jefferson, on behalf of the By-Laws Committee, presented the following report and recommendations for proposed changes to the United Community Corporation By-Laws. Material within brackets to be deleted, material underscored is the proposed amendment.

Article I, Section 1: Any citizen over 21 years of age 15 years of age or over who is a resident, or works in, or performs a service to the City of Newark, is eligible to become a member upon written application to the Secretary of the Corporation. The membership of the Corporation shall consist of a minimum of 75 persons, with no limitation on maximum number, and a member shall [serve] participate solely as a person and not as a representative of any organization. Membership shall continue for four years or until terminated by death, resignation, and at the end of four years shall be renewed upon application in writing to the Secretary of the Corporation.

Upon motion made and seconded, and by two-thirds vote, the amendment proposed was adopted.

(16)

Article II, Section 2: The Board shall be composed of the Mayor, two members of the City Council, the President of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools (and forty-eight members at large, plus the seven remaining members of the City Council who shall be honorary members of the Board of Trustees. These members) and the following number of persons to be elected by the members of the Corporation: 48 until the annual meeting of members in 1965; 53 thereafter until the annual meeting of members in 1966; 58 thereafter until the annual meeting of members in 1967; and 63 thereafter. The seven remaining members of the City Council shall be honorary members of the Board of Trustees. Trustees elected by the members of the Corporation shall not represent but should be representative of government, social agencies, business and labor, religious and ethnic groups, and youth as well as those in the community who are to benefit from the work of the Corporation. Elected Trustees shall serve a three-year term and shall be divided into three classes so that one-third shall be elected each year. Elected Trustees may serve only two successive terms.

(Trustees shall serve a three year term. They may serve only two successive terms. At the end of the first year, May 1965, one third of the forty-eight members at large (16) shall be subject to rotation off the Board. This process shall be repeated during the second and third years so that sixteen Trustees will begin a new term each year. Those who are rotated in the first three years will be eligible for only one successive term even if they have only served one or two years.)

Upon motion made and seconded, and by two-thirds vote, the amendment proposed was adopted.

A new section entitled Section 2a was proposed as follows:

Article II, Section 2a: At the end of the first year, May 1965, the term of office of one-third of original 48 elected Trustees (16) shall terminate. Similarly, the term of office of 16 original elected Trustees shall terminate at the end of the second and third year. Elected Trustees whose term of office terminates in the first three years will be eligible for only one successive term even if they have only served one or two years. Five Trustees shall be added to the number of Trustees to be elected each year until the year 1967 when the elected Trustees shall number 63.

Upon motion made and seconded, and by two-thirds vote, the amendment proposed, insertion of the above new section, was adopted.

Article II, Section 6: A Trustee may, in writing, at the time of the meeting or prior thereto, (designate) file with the President or the Secretary the name of a person of his choosing to vote his proxy at

any of the meetings of the Board of Trustees [.] except for the election of officers and the expenditure of funds. Such authorization may be revoked by said Trustee in writing at the meeting or prior thereto.

Upon motion made and seconded, and by two-thirds vote, the amendment proposed was adopted.

A new section entitled Section 7 was proposed as follows:

Article II, Section 7: An elected Trustee who is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board, and whose absences are not justified, will be dropped from the Board.

The motion was made and seconded. An amendment to the proposed amendment was presented from the floor to insert the word physically between the words "is" and "absent".

The amendment proposed, as amended from the floor, was upon motion made and seconded, adopted by two-thirds vote.

Article III, Section 1: The officers of the Corporation who must be twenty years of age or older, shall be a President, not more than five Vice Presidents, a Secretary not more than two Assistant Secretaries, a Treasurer, and not more than two Assistant Treasurers. An Honorary President and not more than two Honorary Vice President may also be elected. The officers shall be elected annually by the (membership of the Corporation at its annual meeting.) Board of Trustees at its first meeting following the annual membership meeting. The officers shall be elected from amongst the members of the Board of Trustees elected at the same annual meeting.

Upon motion made and seconded, and by two-thirds vote, the amendment proposed was adopted.

Article III, Section 2: The term of office of each officer shall be from the time of his election until the first meeting of the Board of Trustees after the next annual meeting of the members of the Corporation and until the election of his successor. In the case of the absence of any officer and of any person herein authorized to act in his place, the Board of Trustees from time to time may delegate the powers and duties of such officer to any other officers or to any Trustee whom it may select. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to fill any vacancy in any office at any time for the unexpired term.

Upon motion made and seconded, and by two-thirds vote, the amendment proposed was adopted.

Article III, Section 9: The Officers of the Corporation and the Chairmen of the Standing Committees shall constitute the Executive Committee. They may add to their number from among the Trustees no more than three chairmen of standing committees. The President of the Corporation shall be the chairman of the Executive Committee. It shall meet at regular intervals between Board meetings. The Executive Committee shall be directly responsible to the Board. It may rule on questions relating to policy already taken. It may not initiate new policy, but it may recommend policy to the Board. Its function is to facilitate the operation of the Corporation.

Upon motion made and seconded, and by two-thirds vote, the amendment proposed was adopted.

A new section entitled Section 10 was proposed as follows:

Article III, Section 10: The Standing Committees to be appointed by the President from among the members of the Corporation are the Nominating Committee, the Program Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Personnel Committee and the Membership Committee.

Upon motion made and seconded, and by two-thirds vote, the amendment proposed, insertion of the above new section, was adopted.

Article IV, a new article dealing with nominations and elections was proposed to be entitled Article IV and the old Article IV and all succeeding articles were to be advanced one number.

Article IV, Nominations and Elections: Section 1: Nominations for Trustees and officers shall be submitted to the membership by a Nominating Committee. This Committee shall consist of 4 members of the Board of Trustees and 5 members of the Corporation who are not Trustees. The chairman of the Nominating Committee shall be one of the 4 Trustees.

Article IV, Section 2: The Nominating Committee shall hold an open meeting at least six weeks prior to the annual meeting when they shall receive suggestions, written and oral, from the membership for nominations. Due notice of the open meeting shall be given to the membership. They shall thereafter meet to consider a slate of Trustees and Officers. The Committee shall use as its guide line the stated purpose of the Corporation that members of the Trustees "shall not represent but should be representative of government, social agencies, business and labor, religious and ethnic groups, and youth as well as those in the community who are to benefit from the work of the Corporation." A balance of these groups shall always be maintained within the Board of Trustees.

Article IV, Section 3: The Nominating Committee shall report to the Secretary no later than one month prior to the date of the annual meeting its slate of 16 (out of the 21) Trustees for election at said annual meeting. These names shall be included in the written notice of the annual meeting sent to all members of the Corporation.

Article IV, Section 4: The membership shall elect 21 Trustees at the annual meeting. In addition to the slate of 16 proposed by the Nominating Committee, a shall be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting. Trustees thus nominated was the floor, those who receive the five highest number of votes shall be elected. The manner of election, whether by ballot or voting machine, shall be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Now, Jefferson moved adoption of new Article IV. The motion was seconded. In discussion of the proposed new Article IV, inquiry was made as to whether the slate presented to the Nominating Committee had to be accepted or rejected in its entirety or whether the membership could vote for a portion of the slate. It was ruled that the membership had to vote to accept the slate presented by the Nominating Committee as an entity.

A resolution was proposed to the proposed new Article IV, Section 3, to require the Nominating Committee to propose more than 16 names to the membership. It was ruled that the membership had to elect 16 candidates from the list of more than 16 presented by the Nominating Committee, retaining the 5 persons to be elected to the Board of Trustees from nominees presented from the floor. The foregoing amendments were seconded and were defeated by a vote of 71 to 34.

The original new Article IV heretofore described was then presented for consideration and adopted by a majority vote, 74 to 32.

At this point a motion was made, seconded, and by two-thirds vote, it was voted to change the agenda of the meeting in order to have time to vote to fill the vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

Rabbi Price, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, in presenting the slate of nominees on behalf of the Nominating Committee, said that a public meeting had been held to receive nominations for consideration by the full Committee. Serving with him on the Committee were: Mr. Louis R. Ford, Mr. James A. Pawley, Mr. Raymond Proctor, Mr. Oscar Stafford, Mrs. Mary Smith, Mrs. ...

The slate of 16 nominees for the Board of Trustees follows: Mr. Charles W. Garrison, Mrs. Grace Malone, Mr. Frank Loria, Mr. Ralph Geller, Mr. Irving Rosenberg, Mr. Kenneth Gibson, Mr. Duke E. Moore, Sr., Rev. Kinmoth W. Jefferson, Mr. Amadeo Bermudez, Mr. James Abrams, Mr. Louis Pitts, Mr. James Wynn, Mr. Andrew Washington, Mr. George Jones, Mrs. Gloria Bridges and Mr. Robert Curvin.

The report of the Nominating Committee was not unanimous and Mrs. Bessie Smith asked that the following statement be made a matter of record:

"As a member of the Nominating Committee of the United Community Corporation I wish to state that the slate presented here tonight was approved only by a majority vote. I did not approve the slate because there were no poor people on the slate. Poor people, to me, means the people at the bottom, on welfare, under \$4000 income a year for their family, living in slum housing, people who do not have organizational experience or influence, political power, or any kind of connection with City Hall. Article II, Section 2, of the UCC constitution says there should be on the Trustees some who are supposed to represent 'those in the community who are to benefit from the work of the corporation'. I would suggest that these nominees, who are not representative of the very poor, should not be elected tonight. The 16 positions to be filled at this meeting should be held up until poor people are nominated."

The following nominations were made from the floor: Michael Aleccio, Oscar Stafford, Zain Matos, Mrs. Martha LeDeen—not present, Melvin Higgins, John Cowles, Saul Wolfe, Terry Jefferson, Joan Bryant, Alfredo Morales, Mrs. Estelle Pierce, Harry Smith, Rev. Mario Muccitelli, Willie Wright. Brief biographical sketches were given for each nominee.

Immediately following the voting by secret ballot, the teller who had been previously selected from within Area Boards by their respective Chairmen, counted the ballots and certified the results of the election with the following candidates receiving the highest number of votes: Charles W. Garrison, Mrs. Grace Malone, Frank Loria, Ralph Geller, Irving Rosenberg, Kenneth Gibson, Duke E. Moore, Sr., Rev. Kinmoth W. Jefferson, Amadeo Bermudez, James Abrams, Louis Pitts, James Wynn, Andrew Washington, George Jones, Mrs. Gloria Bridges, Robert Curvin, Oscar Stafford, Zain Matos, Rev. Mario Muccitelli, Mrs. Estelle Pierce and Willie Wright.

Serving as tellers were the following: Emmett Jenkins, Chairman; Mrs. Mary Smith and Mrs. Virginia D. Jones, Co-Chairmen; Roberta Perkins, Dorothy Jenkins, Gwendolyn Harris, Nina Mason, Virginia Graves, Estelle Pierce, Lillian Dean, Jesse Allen and Matthew Moore.

The President asked the Treasurer and the Program Committee to make their reports while the tellers were out.

The Treasurer reported that the UCC had received \$15,000 each from the Board of Education, Welfare Federation and the City of Newark to get the Corporation started and that the Office of Economic Opportunity had approved a grant of \$184,000 to develop programs for the City.

Mr. Still, Co-Chairman of the Program Committee, reported that the Committee had set up Task Forces under the following categories: education, employment, housing, special projects, research and community action. Each Task Force has elected officers and are meeting regularly. He added that the Community Action Task Force was instrumental in setting up the Area Boards.

Following the acceptance of these two reports, the President asked Rev. Jefferson move the adoption of the amendment with regard to the non-liability of the membership, and he asked the Executive Director to make his report after the vote had been taken.

Rev. Jefferson presented the amendment as follows:

(Article VII) Article VIII, Non-Liability of Members and Contributors  
Section 1. No member of the Corporation and no contributor of the Corporation shall be liable for the actions or debts of the Corporation, its Board of Trustees, its agents or its representatives.

Upon motion made and seconded, and by majority vote, the amendment proposed was adopted.

The annual report of the Executive Director, Mr. Tyson, is attached and made a part of these minutes.

A brief question and answer period followed Mr. Tyson's report.

The chair announced because of the lateness of the hour all of the report of the By-Laws Committee on proposed amendments to the By-Laws which had been contained in the notice of meeting could not be considered and that he would entertain a motion to adjourn with the understanding that at a future time he would convene a special meeting to complete action on the proposed amendments.

Rev. Jefferson moved that the By-Laws Committee work on an amendment to be presented to the membership to permit Area Board representation on the Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded and passed.

Upon motion made, seconded and passed, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Beatrice V. Easley*  
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